

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20

INT-08 COME-00 PC-15 AGR-20 EB-11 HEW-08 OMB-01

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TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, SWEL, AFDROUGHT

SUBJ: FOOD EMERGENCY IN THE SAHEL--TEXT OF FAO

PRESS RELEASE

1. TEXT OF FAO PRESS RELEASE 2452 NOV. 16 WAS DISTRIBUTED AT UN NOV. 19. THE PRESS RELEASE INDICATES THAT A COMMISSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE NOW MEETING IN ROME ADOPTED A RES CALLING FOR FURTHER FOOD EMERGENCY AID TO THE SAHEL. ADDITIONALLY, THE PRESS RELEASE INDICATES THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SIX-COUNTRY PERMANENT INTER-STATE COMMITTEE FOR DROUGHT CONTROL TOLD THE FAO COMMISSION THAT THE FAO MULTI-DONOR MISSION WHICH RECENTLY TOURED THE SAHEL HAD UNDERESTIMATED THE AID NEEDS OF THE REGION BY ABOUT ONE-HALF.

2. FULL TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWS:

QTE.

(FOLLOWING IS REPRODUCED AS RECEIVED FROM THE FAO, ROME.)

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AMIND STATEMENTS BY AFRICAN LEADERS THAT DROUGHT AGAIN HAS

STRUCK IN WEST AFRICA, A COMMISSION OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) CONFERENCE TODAY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FURTHER EMERGENCY AID TO THE SAHELIAN ZONE.

THE RESOLUTION WAS PROPOSED BY ALGERIA AND WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY COMMISSION I AT ITS MEETING IN ROME.

THE COMMISSION WAS TOLD BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SIX-COUNTRY PERMANENT INTER-STATE COMMITTEE FOR DROUGHT CONTROL THAT ESTIMATES OF A FAO MULTI-DONOR MISSION WHICH RECENTLY TOURED THE ZONE HAD UNDER-ESTIMATED THE AID NEEDS OF THE REGION. WITH CROP DEFICITS GREATER THAN LAST YEAR, SAID THE CHAIRMAN ANTOINE DAKOURE (UPPER VOLTA), THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR 1,200,000 METRIC TONS OF FOOD AID--NEARLY DOUBLE THE 662,000--TON ESTIMATE OF THE MISSION. MR. DAKOURE IS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF UPPER VOLTA.

THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM SENEGAL PLACED THE DEFICIT EVEN HIGHER-- AT 1,500,000 TONS--SAYING THAT RAINS, WHICH STARTED LATE, STOPPED PERMATURELY IN THE LATTER HALF OF SEPTEMBER BEFORE SOME CROPS HAD RIPENED. SENEGAL'S OWN DEFICITS WERE PUT AT 142,000 TONS OF FOOD GRAIN AND 250,000 TONS OF GROUNDNUTS (PEANUTS).

SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS PROMISED ON THE SPOT TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEW RELIEF OPERATION AND TO SUPPORT MEDIUM--AND LONG-TERM MEASURES. HUNGARY, FOR EXAMPLE, STATED THAT IT HAD JUST PLEDGED 5,000 TONS OF WHEAT VALUED AT \$1.3 MILLION.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES THANKED DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR COMING TO THEIR AID DURING THE EMERGENCY PERIOD THAT BEGAN AT THE START OF 1972. MANY DELEGATIONS PRAISED THE FAO'S OFFICE FOR SAHELIAN RELIEF OPERATIONS (OSRO) FOR CO-ORDINATING RELIEF OPERATIONS IN A MANNER THAT PREVENTED STAVATION AND LARGE-SCALE SUFFERING.

IN THAT FIRST PHASE OF SAHELIAN EMERGENCY RELIEF, DONORS ANSWERED AND APPEAL FROM A.H. BOERMA, FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS OF ABOUT \$15 MILLION. UNQTE.
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